

Message Text

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43

ACTION SPC-03

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R 220935Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1541

INFO USINT ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L NOUAKCHOTT 860

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR AG UR MR XX

SUBJECT: ALGIERS NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE--MAURITANIAN VIEW

SUMMARY: MAURITANIANS BELIEVE ALGIERS CONFERENCE ADVANCED PROSPECTS FOR THIRD WORLD UNITY, PARTICULARLY IN ECONOMIC FIELD. MAURITANIANS CONSIDER THAT IN WAKE OF USSR-US RAPPROCHEMENT, SOVIET IMAGE HAS SUFFERED FOR MANY THIRD WORLDERS.

1. IN DISCUSSION SEPT 19 FONMIN MOUKNASS SUMMED UP MAURITANIAN VIEWS OF VALUE OF ALGIERS NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE. FONMIN PAID SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO BOUMEDIENE'S SKILLED PERFORMANCE AS COORDINATOR AND NOTED THAT THE SIDE CONTACTS FACILITATED BY PRESENCE SO MANY CHIEFS OF STATE IN ALGIERS HAD BEEN PARTICULARLY VALUABLE IN TREATING BILATERAL AND REGIONAL ISSUES. CONFERENCE, HE CONSIDERED, ACHIEVED TWO BASIC GOALS BY A) GIVING NEW IMPETUS TO THIRD WOGLD EFFORTS TO SPUR DECOLONIALIZATION AND B) HELPING CLARIFY WAYS UNDERDEVELOPED COUNTRIES COULD DERIVE GREATER BENEFIT FROM THEIR NATURAL RESOURCES. HE REFERRED TO SUCCESS OIL COUNTRIES WERE HAVING

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IN THIS REGARD AND SAID HE WAS CONVINCED WAYS COULD BE

FOUND TO CREATE AND/OR REVITALIZE EXISTING ORGANIZATIONS,
SIMILAR TO OPEC, FOR OTHER MINERALS AS WELL AS FOR
AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS.

2. FONMIN NOTED THAT TASK OF MAINTAINING THIRD WORLD UNITY
WAS MORE COMPLEX TODAY THAN DURING BANDUNG DAYS BUT MAINTAINED
THAT ALGIERS DEMONSTRATED THIRD WORLDERS' WILL TO MAINTAIN
UNITY REMAINED STRONG.

AENGH HE THEN VOLUNTEERED FOLLOWING RE SOVIET IMAGE AS VIEWED
BY MANY AT ALGIERS WHERE HE SAID CORRIDOR TALK HAD BEEN
SURPRISINGLY DEROGATORY OF SOVIETS. ALTHOUGH ALL REPS HE MET
VOICED APPROVAL OF GREAT POWER RAPPROCHEMENT, HE HEARD MANY
DELEGATES DECRY MOSCOW'S OPPORTUNISM IN ITS EFFORT CREATE
NEW RELATIONSHIP WITH WASHINGTON. ATTITUDE WAS WIDELY EXPRESSED
THAT WHILE WASHINGTON, IN MOVING TO NORMALIZE RELATIONS WITH
MOSCOW, HAD REMAINED LARGELY CONSISTENT IN ITS POLICY POSITIONS,
THIS NOT EQUALLY TRUE OF SOVIETS. LATTER'S BLATANT SEARCH
FOR ECONOMIC BENEFITS IN ITS DEALINGS WITH USG HAD TARNISHED
ITS IMAGE FOR MANY OF ITS ADMIRERS. ILLUSTRATIVE OF SUSPICIONS
SURROUNDING SOVIETS, FONMIN SAID, WAS READINESS OF ARAB REPS
PRESENT AT ALGIERS TO CREDIT MOSCOW WITH INSTIGATING
KIDNAPPING OF SAUDI DIPLOMATS IN PARIS AT TIME OF CONFERENCE
IN EFFORT TO UPSET MOVES TOWARDS INTER-ARAB RECONCILIATION.

4. COMMENT. AS REPORTED SEPARATELY, MAURITANIAN LEADERSHIP
IS PARTICULARLY UNHAPPY AT THIS JUNCTURE WITH MOSCOW'S
EVIDENT LOW LEVEL OF INTEREST IN SAHELIAN DROUGHT TRAGEDY
GENERALLY AND IN ITS RELATIONS WITH MAURITANIA IN PARTICULAR.
WHILE THIS MAY WELL HAVE COLORED FONMIN'S COMMENTS RE
SOVIETS, AND WE ACKNOWLEDGE HE ALSO NOT ABOVE PLAYING TUNE
WHICH HE ASSUMES PLEASANT TO HIS LISTENER, HE DID STRESS
THAT DISENCHANTMENT WITH MOSCOW, AS EXPRESSED AT ALGIERS,
WAS GENERAL AND EXTENDED WELL BEYOND BORDERS OF THIS COUNTRY
AND ITS AFRICAN NEIGHBORS.
MURPHY

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